

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-05 CU-04 NSF-02 NAS-01 /024 W

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R 151555Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6658

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECON

SUBJECT: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR USAID GRANT TO IVORIAN ECONOMIC
AN SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER (CIRES)- COOPERATION IN SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH

1. ON JANUARY 14 MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH JEAN GUEDE
LOROUGNON AND AMBASSADOR SIGNED A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
AID AND THE "CENTRE IVORIEN DES RECHERCHES ECONOMIQUES ET
SOCIALES" FOR \$84,000 FOR FY 1976, WITH THE PROSPECT OF TWO
ADDITIONAL GRANTS OF THE SAME AMOUNT IN FY 77 AND FY 78. THE
PURPOSE OF THE GRANT IS TO UNDERTAKE FIVE RURAL RESEARCH PROJECTS
AND TO TRAIN IVORIAN RESEARCH SPECIALISTS TO PH.D. LEVEL IN
U.S. UNIVERSITIES.

2. THIS CULMINATES TWO YEARS OF PREPARATION AND FITS WELL
INFO EFFORTS THIS EMBASSY HAS BEEN MAKING TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER
COOPERATION BETWEEN GOIC AND U.S. IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.
SUCH ACTIVITIES HAVE INCLUDED VISIT HERE BY NATIONAL SCIENCE
FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVES AND AN IV GRANT TO IVORIAN DOCU-
MENTATION SPECIALIST TO VISIT AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES TO
DEVELOP BETTER EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS.
MINISTER GUEDE LOROUGNON, IN COMMENDING OUR INITIATIVE AND
EXPRESSING WARM APPRECIATION FOR IT, MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IN NO
WAY REPLACED FRENCH SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH IVORY COAST.
HE WELCOMED OUR ASSISTANCE AS "NEW FRIENDS" WHO WOULD HELP TO
BROADEN THE COOPERATION THAT IVORY COAST HAS WITH OTHER
COUNTRIES IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

4. MINISTRY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DID EXCELLENT PROMOTION JOB

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ON THE SIGNING, INCLUDING TWO ARTICLES IN FRATERNITE MATIN ON

JANUARY 14 AND TWO MORE, INCLUDING PICTURES, REPORTING THE EVENT ON JANUARY 15. (ARTICLES WILL BE SENT BY POUCH). THE ARTICLES WERE CAREFULLY FOLLOWED, HOWEVER, BY REFERENCES TO A MEETING TO BEGIN ON JANUARY 15 OF THE MIXED FRANCO-IVORIAN COMMISSION ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

5. COMMENT: THESE ACTIVITIES REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT BREAK-THROUGH IN RELATIONS BETWEEN GOIC AND USG, BUT THEY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AS A DIVERSIFICATION OF IVORIAN CONTACTS AND CLEARLY NOT AS A SUBSTITUTE. THIS IS, OF COURSE, FULLY CONSISTENT WITH U.S. OBJECTIVES. SMITH

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